

2007 KY Leadership Conference and Skills Championship SkillsUSA: Champions At Work

The 2007 SkillsUSA Kentucky State Leadership Conference and Skills Championship, held at the Executive Inn from April 2-5, once again surpassed benchmarks set during last year's conference. Under the leadership of SkillsUSA KY State Director Steve Phillippi, the organization has been steadily on the rise over the past four years in terms of student membership, as well as scholarship and corporate sponsorship. He attributes much of the success to the volunteers who make it happen at the local, regional and state levels.



“This whole effort is supported by the OCTE central office and an army of volunteers from business and industry, KY Tech ATCs, local school districts and postsecondary institutions,” says Phillippi. “When I was hired four years ago, we set goals for the organization and we have continued to improve over each year. We were able to raise \$966,00 in scholarships and prizes for this year's conference, which is a \$216,000 increase over last year. Our hard work is paying off for the benefit of our students and that's really what we are all about.”

Skills USA Champions at Work

Conference Registration



Photo, l to r, Mason Co. ATC Electrical Technology Instructor David Collins, Mason Co. ATC Auto Body Repair Instructor Jason Calvert and Phillippi.

“This is a great opportunity for the kids and they are all excited to be here,” said Collins. “I am excited too because this is my first year to attend.”



Photo at left, l to r: Breckinridge Co. ATC Machine Tool Technology Instructor Tommy Thompson, Breckinridge Co. ATC Office Technology Instructor Jodi Compton and Phillippi.

“There are four advisors and 16 students representing Breckinridge Co. ATC,” says Compton. “We are entered in six leadership and five skills events, and we have one state officer candidate. We are all proud of our students.”

Advisors' Meeting

The Advisors' meeting was held to address changes, procedures, and other matters of importance regarding the conference. Phillippi introduced, Joe Eames, who serves as the Skills Events chairman and Greg Guinn, the co-chair. Both gentlemen represent Jefferson Community and Technical College and coordinate everything associated with all the skills events.

Photo at right: Mr. Joe Eams addresses questions during the Advisors' meeting.



The Leadership Events Team is composed of Chairman Dr. Sheree Koppel, Jefferson Community and Technical College, and Myra Wilson, co-chair, the Office of Career and Technical Education. It is their responsibility to coordinate all leadership events by securing event chairpersons and assisting with judges.

"It takes a dedicated group of people to provide the necessary leadership for all the components of this conference to come together in a successful manner," says Phillippi. "The time and effort they have expended is evident by what they have accomplished. I think it speaks volumes for everyone in the organization and we appreciate their devotion."

Photo at right: A group of SkillsUSA advisors, from all over the state, take a moment to pose for this photo during the Advisors' meeting.



Photo at right, (l to r): Trevor Ford, student officer, sits with Belfry ATC Welding Instructor Jonathon Bogar during the Advisors' meeting.



Advisors' Meeting

Photo at right (l to r): Meade Co. ATC Principal Faye Campbell discusses competitive events with Carpentry Instructor Jeff Gutermuth. Campbell has been involved in SkillsUSA KY for the past 28 years.

“Our entire faculty and staff believe that Mrs. Campbell has positively influenced hundreds of students during her career,” says Gutermuth. “Her dedication has been unwavering and we all appreciate her support of our efforts in helping our students to become successful.”



All of these instructors agree that students who are part of SkillsUSA Kentucky receive a multitude of benefits that include education and skills training, and have an opportunity to develop leadership skills.



Mr. Rodney Nokes
Machine Tool Technology
Lake Cumberland ATC

Mr. John Cook
Electrical Technology
Lee Co. ATC

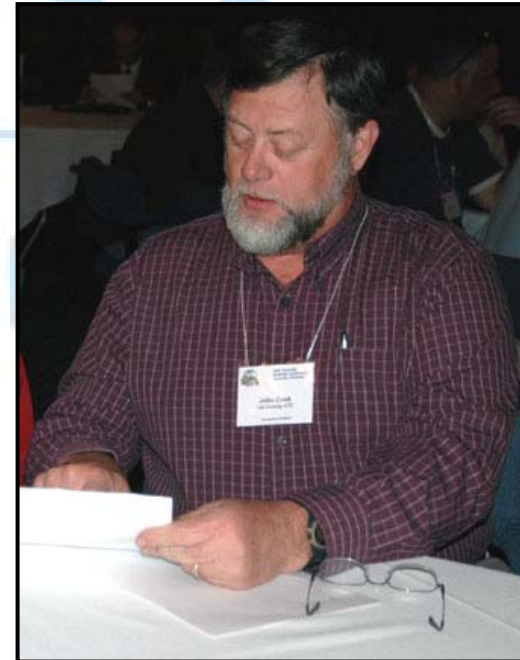


Photo above (l to r): John Kinnett, Wayne Co. ATC carpentry instructor; Barry Porter, Green Co. ATC machine tool technology instructor; and Ronnie Santana, Green Co. ATC industrial maintenance technology student and state officer.

Advisors' Meeting

Photo at right (l to r): Michael Hockenberry, Boone Co. ATC electrical technology instructor and Russell ATC Electrical Technology Instructor Doug Keaton.

Not only does the Advisors' meeting provide the most up to date conference information, but instructors have some time for 'shop talk.' Keaton informed Hockenberry about a project entitled, "Change a Light, Change the World."



Photo at left (l to r): Jay Tapscott, Marshall Co. TC welding instructor; Amy McAlpin, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC culinary arts instructor; and Mitchell McNutt, Murray/Calloway Co. ATC automotive technology instructor.

"It's an exhilarating experience for the advisors and kids because it allows our students to be around others to test their skills," says McAlpin. "This is my first time to attend and I am gaining a better understanding of how the organization is operated."



Photo at right: Breckinridge Co. ATC and Hancock Co. HS advisors (l to r, front row): Bradley Goodall, Hancock Co. HS IT instructor; Tom Thompson (BCATC), and Jodi Compton (BCATC). Back row (l to r): Carpentry Instructor Joe Stinnett and Machine Tool Instructor Dean Monarch.

I've been a teacher for 9 years , but I have only been a KY Tech instructor for one year and having an opportunity to attend this conference will provide me with a chance to network with other professionals across the state," says Goodall. "We are continuing to grow at Hancock and this is the first year for our students to participate in competition. We consider our students to be 'the coalition of the willing,' since they are here on their spring break. My colleagues at Breckinridge Co. ATC have been exceptional in providing guidance to me regarding SkillsUSA and how it helps students with leadership training and skills competition."



First General Session



This year's opening ceremony included special guest speakers and served as a platform for making some very special presentations. SkillsUSA Kentucky Director Steve Phillippi was pleased to announce the following , 2006-07 Postsecondary Education Administrator of the Year, **Dr. Tony Newberry**, president, Jefferson Community and Technical College, 2006-07 Secondary Education Administrator of the Year, **Dr. Joyce Wogoman**, branch manager, Office of Career and Technical Education; 2006-07 Advisor of the Year, **Brandy Brock**, associate professor, Somerset CC – Laurel Campus; 2006-07 Outstanding State Officer, **James Bullard**, Paducah ATC.

Phillippi also introduced, for the first time, 100% Chapter Awards. This program was created to recognize exemplary

membership in schools. The three categories include "**Gold**," which recognizes 300 or more members (**Chapman Career and Technical Education Center**); "**Silver**," for 200 or more members (**Lake Cumberland ATC and Southside Technical Center**); and "**Bronze**," for 100 or more members (**Boone Co. ATC, Boyd Co. CTC, JD Patton ATC, Meade Co. ATC, Millard ATC, Murray-Calloway Co. ATC, Paducah ATC, Franklin Co. CTC, Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC, Jefferson Community and Technical College and Leslie Co. ATC**).

Photo at right (l to r): Department for Workforce Investment Commissioner Beth Smith and Phillippi. Smith was the special guest speaker for the opening ceremony and was presented with an Honorary SkillsUSA Kentucky Membership.



First General Session



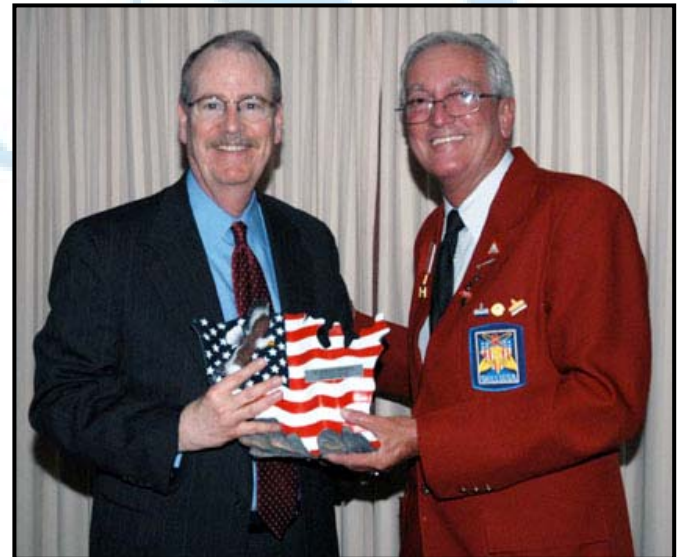
Photo at left: OCTE Executive Director David L. Billingsley addressed participants during the First General Session by saying, "I am a proponent of all career and technical education organizations. By virtue of the fact that you are in SkillsUSA, you are at the beginning stages of job preparation. I would like to encourage you to further your education after high school because the more educated you are, the higher paying job you will get."

Billingsley also took time to formally thank all the student advisors. "I'd like to thank all of our student advisors and sponsors for preparing their students and supporting them in their respective competitive events. It is a tremendous sacrifice to spend time away from your own family and you are to be commended."



At left: Phillippi presents James Bullard with 2006-07 Outstanding State Officer Award.

At right: Jefferson CTC President Dr. Tony Newberry accepts the 2006-07 Postsecondary Education Administrator of the Year Award from Phillippi.



Photos on this page were provided by Tim Thornberry



Industry Sponsorship

Photo - Snap-on Industrial Sponsorship, from l to r: David Wells, Technical Representative; MC Richmond, Equipment Sales Specialist; Will Robinson, Account Manager; and Terry B. Hardwick, Account Manager.

Snap-on Industrial has been a corporate state sponsor since 1975. This year, the company is providing prizes for the automotive, collision repair, diesel technology, industrial maintenance-

mechatronics, aviation and marine technology competitions for high school and postsecondary 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. In addition to being a corporate sponsor, Snap-on has a 'Student Excellence Program' designed for students to buy tools at a greatly reduced price. For more information, visit the web site at:

<http://www.snapon.com/student/>

"We are here to help all of the instructors and students understand and stay abreast of Snap On Industrial's newest diagnostic and under car equipment, and hand tools. We believe that by exposing students to this type of technology, it will help prepare them for what they will see and use in the workplace. We strive to make career and technical education students customers for life."

Industry Sponsorship



A second year corporate sponsor for SkillsUSA Kentucky is Matco Tools.

Photo, (l to r): Clark Co. ATC Automotive Technology Student Allen Terry; Clark Co. ATC Automotive Technology Instructor Mark Rogers; Matco Tools District Vocational Manager Doug Bailey, and Regional Manager John Elliott.



“It is important for Matco Tools to partner with future technicians and SkillsUSA KY provides us with an opportunity to introduce our line of products and special MVP (Matco Vocational Program) to students,” says Matco Tools District Vocational Manager Doug Bailey. “The MVP allows me to be present at a local level and spend time with the students. We are also glad to provide tool prizes that are useful for automotive technology students.”

“It’s my first year to attend SkillsUSA KY and I think it’s great for my students to compete, make friends and meet specialized business and industry representatives,” says Clark Co. ATC Automotive Technology Instructor Mark Rogers. “Just talking with these Matco representatives has had a big impact on my students. We appreciate their sponsorship.”



Industry Sponsorship

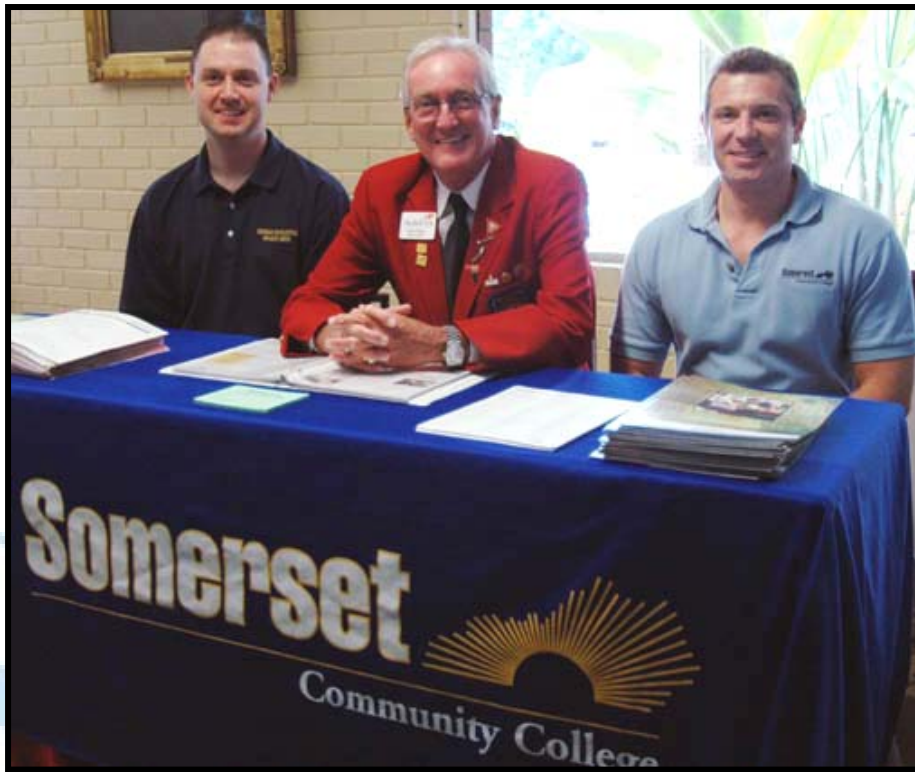


In their continued effort to support SkillsUSA Kentucky, Lincoln Electric Co. provided prizes, various gifts, packages for instructors, learning aids and supplies totaling \$22,000.

“In the state of Kentucky, there are hundreds of companies involved in the welding industry. For this to continue to prosper, we need to target today’s youth because there is a serious shortage of skilled arc welders in KY and all over the U.S. Because of the shortage, wages for skilled welders continue to increase. Competitive events like the KY SkillsUSA State Conference and Skills Competition allow us to see the pool of talent being educated across the state. This type of competitive atmosphere also helps to create interest while at the same time sharpening the skills of students who participate,” says Lincoln Electric Technical Representative Ed Varekojis. “On behalf of Lincoln Electric, we were happy to be able to provide technical knowledge and material resources and prizes to support this effort.”

“The local, regional and state competitions are important because of the challenges our students face in a controlled environment. It prepares them for the pressures they will encounter when they enter the workforce,” says Hughes Jones Harrodsburg ATC Welding Instructor Chris King. “Lincoln Electric is a great supporter of SkillsUSA and they provide a variety of services, knowledge and prizes because they understand the importance of education and skills training. All of their support helps to ensure the continued success of these competitive events and we appreciate what they do.”





Scholarship Sponsorship

Photo at left (l to r): Trent Pool, Somerset Community College recruiter; Phillippi; and Sean Ayers, Somerset Community College recruiter.

According to SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi, students will receive more scholarship money during this year's conference than ever before.

"It's because of the continuing importance of education and skills training that postsecondary institutions, like Somerset Community College, have stepped up to the plate to offer scholarships for our SkillsUSA state champions. The word has even spread to northern and southern colleges, universities and technical institutes. It's obviously because of the quality of our Kentucky students and the technical education and skills training provided by their instructors," says Phillippi.

"We are here because we think it's important to encourage secondary students to transition into postsecondary education," says Pool.

"On behalf of the Somerset Community College, we are pleased to provide 150 scholarships in the amount of \$250.00 each for students in the southern and southeast regions of SkillsUSA Kentucky," says Ayers.



Photo taken during the State Officer Candidate interview session. Part of the SkillsUSA Kentucky Leadership Team are (left to right) Newport High School Graphic Communications Instructor Steve Stubbs, Paducah ATC Collision Repair Instructor Larry DeJournett, and Caldwell Co. ATC Culinary Arts Instructor Ruth Gray. They all help State Director Steve Phillippi coordinate, organize and deliver services for a well run state conference.

According to Gray, students who want to become an officer candidate must go through an interview process and submit a portfolio that includes a resume, examples of work, certificates and awards, and Levels 1 and 2 of the PDP Workbook.

“Each student goes through a preliminary job interview; is required to take a written test for leadership and SkillsUSA knowledge; and must complete the requirements for the Kentucky Statesman,” says Gray. “All of these components determine if the student will make it on the ballot as a candidate. Once the ballot is set, the delegates vote for their favorite candidate.”

“Our primary job during this process is to look for students who can become leaders in our world,” says DeJournett. “We believe in this method of development and our students are living proof of how well this works.”

“When we interview students for these leadership position, it helps them learn more about the steps they must go through for not only this position, but how well they can apply this to future interviews,” says Stubbs.

Meet the SkillsUSA Kentucky Slate of State Officers



At left: Steve Stubbs takes a moment to talk with Brandy Burton, a graphic communications student at Newport High School.



Above: Daniel Moore, a computer programming student at Eastside Technical School.



At left: Ashton Breaux, a culinary arts student at Caldwell Co. ATC.



Above: Jeremy Artis, – a welding student at the Paducah ATC. He is a junior.



Above: Samantha Lockhart – an auto body student at the Paducah ATC. She is a junior.



2007-08 SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officers

At left: Ronnie Santana, an industrial maintenance technology student at the Green Co. ATC.

Student Leadership



Photo at left: Laurie Stevens, 2006-07 SkillsUSA Kentucky president and Southside Technical Center Principal James Hardin.

“Over this last year, I have enjoyed meeting people because it has helped open up a lot of opportunities to advance my career,” says Stevens. “If it hadn’t been for the encouragement of Mr. Hardin, I would not have taken this chance. He believed in me and I now believe in myself.”

“The biggest value of a student organization is that our kids gain so much in terms of building leadership qualities,” says Hardin. “The other key component is that there are so many students who don’t see themselves in a leadership role. Yet, when they begin to understand what leadership entails, they begin to flourish. And, I just happen to know a young lady who is a perfect example of that description. Laurie Stevens was a very shy, bashful and, some would even say a little backwards. But, through the encouragement on the part of our teachers, she has developed into a superior role model and leader.”

At right: James Bullard (center) enjoys a moment with Fulton Co. ATC Machine Tool Instructor Don Wann; Glenda Rowlett, Murray-Calloway Co. ATC secretary; Don Rowlett, Paducah ATC principal; and Advisor Larry Dejournett. Bullard was named the 2006-07 Outstanding State Officer.

“Over the last three years, I have learned communication and leadership skills. There was a time when I had difficulty speaking in front of large groups, but because of my involvement in both KLTI and SkillsUSA, I have been able to overcome stage freight,” says Bullard. “To me, leadership is stepping up and taking charge of a situation or project. I feel that I can now be a leader because of my experiences in SkillsUSA Kentucky.”



Poster - Leadership Event

It was the second year for the Poster contest to be held. It is in the Leadership Events division. Students were required to create a poster using the 'Champions at Work' theme. While this may seem like an easy task, contestants were not allowed to use any scrap-booking materials and no attachments were allowed. The poster had to be made using a pen, pencil, crayons, or markers.

According to State Director Phillippi, "this contest was developed to provide sophomores with an opportunity to compete at state conference."



**1st Place Winner - Joe Parrish
Franklin Co. CTC**

"I'm extremely proud of the skills Joe brings to our club. This is his first year in SkillsUSA Kentucky and he holds the office of vice president of our local chapter," says Franklin Co. CTE Carpentry Instructor J.W. Blackburn. "I make it a point to learn about the strengths of all of my students so that we can jointly decide on the best competition categories for each of them to compete in at the local, regional and state levels. It helps them become more involved and interested in a broader range of skills and activities."



**2nd Place Winner
Karissa Walter
Newport High School**



At left (l to r): Clark Co. ATC Principal Karen Bothun, Clark Co. ATC welding student, Kayla Fryer and OCTE Deputy Executive Director Lewis D. Carter.

“Ms. Bothun is just great and she helped me prepare for state competition. I entered Job Interview and we worked on preparing a resume. I even got to go through a practice interview with Mrs. Cora Heffner at the KY Bank,” says Kayla. “My welding instructor, (Glendon Harris), also helped me practice by asking me to answer occupational questions. I love my tech center because I get individual attention and recognition from my principal, teacher, and friends.”



Above: Lincoln Co. ATC Wood Technology Instructor Sonja Baker (middle) poses with some of her students. Zach Simpson, a student in her class built an oak “Shadow Box,” that was donated to SkillsUSA KY. Students will now have a beautiful case that they can hand the SkillsUSA emblem during ceremonies.



Photo (l to r): Barren Co. ATC student Shawna Felkins, Electrical Technology Instructor Greg Felkins, Carpentry Instructor Kent Hood and student Joel Bartlett.

“To a lot of these kids, SkillsUSA is their sport,” says Hood.

Good News Story #198
April 6, 2006

